United Nations
Centre against Apartheid

INFORMATION NOTE NO. SCA/GE/91/8 4 DECEMBER 1991

BRITISH MPs SAID TO BACK CALL FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT

On 26 November 1991, Britain's influential All-Party Parliamentary Southern African Committee tabled a motion for debate in the House of Commons welcoming the prospect of an All-Party Conference in South Africa and expressing "the hope that this will lead to rapid agreement on the establishment of an interim government to rule South Africa during the period of transition."

The motion, which is supported by 53 MPs including prominent Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats, also urges the British Government "to use its influence with its partners in the European Community and the Commonwealth as well as in the United Nations to achieve an international consensus in favour of such an agreement."

In a statement announcing the tabling of the motion, Richard Caborn MP, Secretary of the All-Party Committee said:

> "I am confident that our motion will attract even more support over the next few days. It demonstrates that MPs from across the political spectrum in the House of Commons want the negotiating process to succeed and recognize that this means that the National Party can no longer continue to rule exclusively. We hope that our motion will help convince President de Klerk that he must accept the need for an Interim Government which will enjoy the confidence of the great majority of South Africans."

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS (AAMs) LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE MAASTRICHT SUMMIT TO BACK INTERIM GOVERNMENT

On 26 November 1991, the Anti-Apartheid Movements in the European Community issued a press release in which they welcomed the planned convening, on 29 November 1991, of the preparatory meeting for the All-Party Congress scheduled to take place on 20 and 21 December 1991. They stated that:-

> "This important breakthrough should lead to progress being made towards the principles for a new democratic constitution for South Africa, for the mechanism to draw up such a constitution, and in particular on transitional arrangements, such as an Interim Government, to rule South Africa during the process of negotiations.
>
> The 14 national Anti-Apartheid Movements in the EC member states are combining together to pressurise for the Maastricht Summit to back the call from anti-apartheid organisations within South Africa for the rapid replacement of the De Klerk regime by an Interim Government. The Liaison Group of EC AAMs has written to the President of the Council of Ministers, Minister van den Broek, and the Commission President, M. Jacques Delors, seeking urgent meetings to discuss in particular a Memorandum setting out the case for an Interim Government.
>
> The campaign will culminate with international coordinated action on 6th and 7th December in support of an Interim Government and to call for the maintenance of economic sanctions and boycotts to achieve this objective.
>
> In Britain the Anti-Apartheid Movement Chair, Robert Hughes MP, has written to the Foreign Secretary urging him to support the case for an Interim Government at the Maastricht Summit."

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